REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application. Claims 1 and 8 have been amended, claims 15-29 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and new claims 30-37 have been added. Claims 1-14 and 30-37 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bender (U.S. 2005/0081080) in view of Phelps (U.S. 2003/0061476). The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection based on at least the following remarks.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's assertion that one of ordinary skill in the art would have modified the teachings of Bender and Phelps in a manner that would render obvious the claims of the present application, except in hindsight in view of the present application. At best, the Bender patent discloses the "Detect and Retry" method of the prior art. Further, Phelps discloses detecting a predetermined condition triggering a reconfiguration of the computing system and dynamically reconfiguring a signal path affected by the condition. One of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to

implement such a combination of these two different types of systems, except in hindsight in view of the present invention.

Further, the amendments to the claims have been made as set forth above to further encourage allowance of this application. Specifically, the two independent claims now include an interconnect including at least three transmission portions, and a selecting of one or more of the transmission portions to be used for transmission. Therefore, the claims are further distinguished from the prior art relied upon by the Examiner, since the references do not discuss any selection of one or more transmission portions of an interconnect for transmission. Additionally, neither of the references discusses using a multiplexer to make such a selection, as specifically recited in independent claim 8.

For at least the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully request that the prior art rejection be withdrawn and that this application be allowed.

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Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to initiate an interview with the undersigned by calling 815-885-1390 if the Examiner believes that such an interview will advance prosecution of this application.

Request for an Extension of Time

Applicant respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-0221 to cover any necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Charge our Deposit Account

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 50-0221.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: <u>April 24, 2007</u>   <u>/Robert D. Anderson/</u>
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